

Public Safety Briefing

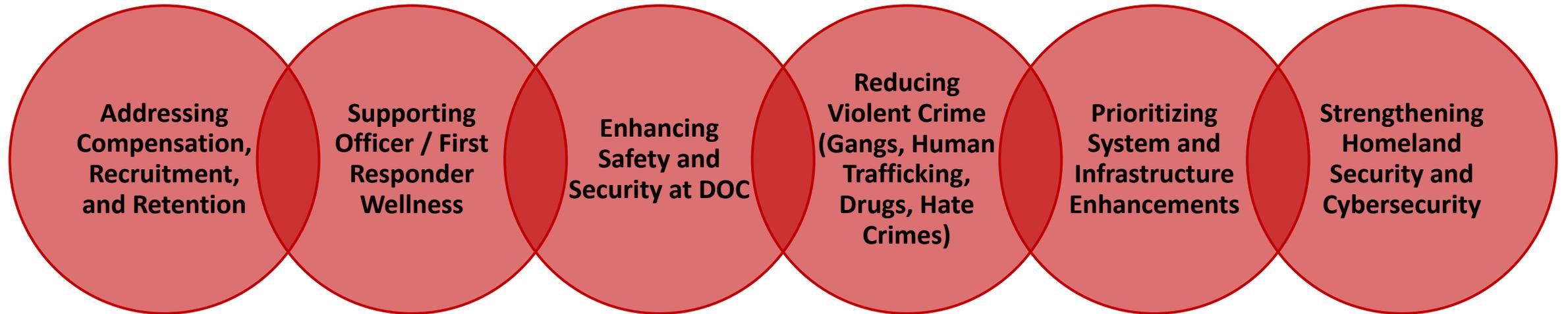


**Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
Public Safety Subcommittee**

January 17, 2024

**The Honorable Terrance C. "Terry" Cole
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security**

Public Safety and Homeland Security Budget Priorities



Governor's Introduced Budget

Public Safety Budget Priorities (\$ in millions)	FY 25	FY 26
Office of First Responder Wellness / Recruitment at DCJS	18.0	-
Career progression / recruitment at Department of Corrections	9.5	9.5
Transition Lawrenceville Correctional to DOC Management	24.5	18.3
Increased DOC operational cost funding (religious meals, utilities, etc.)	4.0	4.0
Purchase body scanners at DOC	3.4	0.6
Fund additional VSP staff at Virginia Fusion Center (6 positions)	0.5	0.5
Purchase three airplanes / two helicopters at VSP	1.9	1.9
Campus Safety Coordinator at VSP	0.1	0.1
Increases salaries for sworn positions at VSP	3.0	3.0
Increase grant funding to combat hate crimes at DCJS	2.0	-
Increase funding for victim witness grant funding at DCJS	2.4	4.8
Total funding for Operation Ceasefire / Gun Violence Prevention Programs	36.5	36.5
Central Appropriations: Improve agency information technology infrastructure	150.0	-

Governor's Introduced Budget Savings

Public Safety Budget Savings (\$ in millions)	FY 25	FY 26
Closure of Augusta Correctional effective June 30, 2024	24.7	31.1
Closure of Sussex II Prison effective June 30, 2024	24.3	27.7
Closure of Stafford CCAP effective June 30, 2024	1.8	3.4
Closure of Haynesville Field Unit effective June 30, 2024	2.6	2.6

Public Safety Issues

Cybersecurity

Human Trafficking

Illicit / Illegal Drugs

Gang Activity

Homeland Security / Drones

Corrections Security

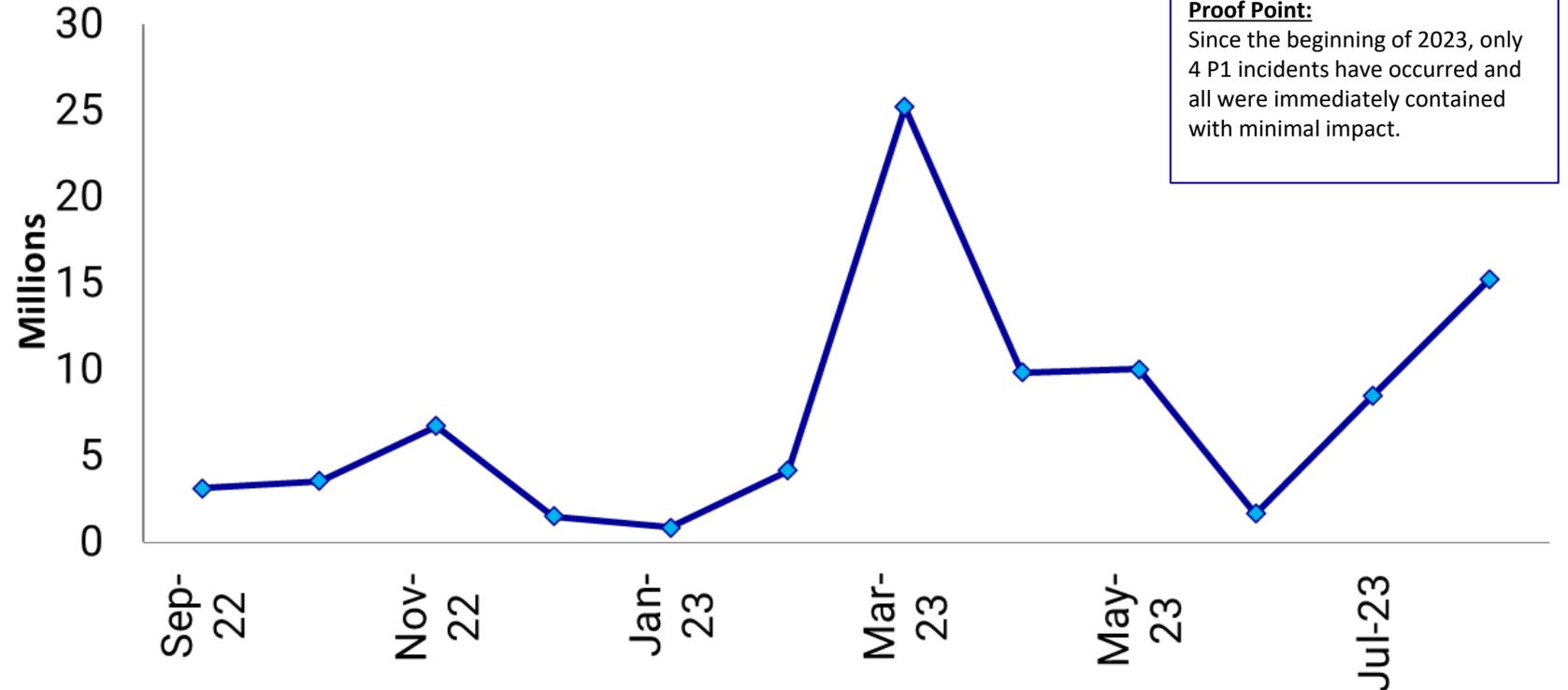
Officer / First Responder Wellness

Cybersecurity

90,381,613 attack attempts on Commonwealth networks

Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2023

The state of cybersecurity in 2024 is marked by a dynamic and evolving threat landscape, regulatory compliance and privacy concerns, and the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), among the growing trends.



Proof Point:
Since the beginning of 2023, only 4 P1 incidents have occurred and all were immediately contained with minimal impact.



Cybersecurity Events

K-12 Data Leaks – 8 Virginia entities notified, coordinated with DOE.

Vulnerabilities / Indicators – Notified 3 entities of exposed industrial control systems. Notified 8 entities for Cisco vuln. Prevented 1 Lockbit ransomware attack by sharing indicators from another fusion center.

Global Geopolitics – Continued monitoring of Ukraine/Russia + Israel/Hamas Conflicts.

D.C. Board of Elections – DCBOE data leak impacting unknown number of voter records conducted by RansomedVC.

Western Virginia Water Authority – Suffered a brute force login attack against their VPN service over the course of a week.

Cybersecurity – The Virginia Response

- Enhancing partnerships within the Virginia State Police, Cyber Unit to increase collaboration and information sharing.
- Working with VITA to modernized the agencies under Public Safety and Homeland Security to align with latest federal (NIST) standards which include:
 - Cybersecurity awareness training (KnowBe4) for all executive branch agencies
 - Multifactor authentication now includes the use of OKTA and enhanced password security (longer passwords for all and vaulted administrative passwords)
 - New vulnerability management tools (Nucleus)
 - New security tools for websites (Acunetix)
 - Two stress test assessments (Mandiant)

Human Trafficking

- Human Trafficking is a growing problem in Virginia and inextricably linked to other criminal organizations; from drug trafficking and organized theft rings to terrorists and money launderers.
 - Human trafficking affects between 150 to 300 victims every year.
 - Over 80% of the cases each year involve sex trafficking, with females being the most affected gender.
 - Sex trafficking venues that recorded the most cases were illicit massage/spa business, hotel/motel-based commercial sex, residence-based commercial sex, and escort services.
 - Labor trafficking venues with the highest victims were domestic work, construction, and restaurant/food service.
- Virginia State Police are actively working 138 Human Trafficking Investigations.

Human Trafficking by the Numbers

- Human Trafficking is one of the Top Five crimes posing a significant threat to transnational security.
- Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (OCSEA) was ranked among the top ten crime trends perceived to pose a ‘high’ or ‘very high’ threat by Interpol member countries.

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)	2023 Total
Cybertips	6352
Reported Arrests	106
Children Rescued/Identified	66
Investigations	1138
Items forensically examined	1019
Total size of data forensically examined (TB)	210.98
New Forensic Examination Requests	237
Presentations	61
Public Awareness	57
Public Events	17
Total Attendees	3497
Human Trafficking	
Investigations	235
Individual Investigative Activities	731
Victims Identified/Offered Services	31
Human Trafficking Tips	153

Human Trafficking – The Virginia Response

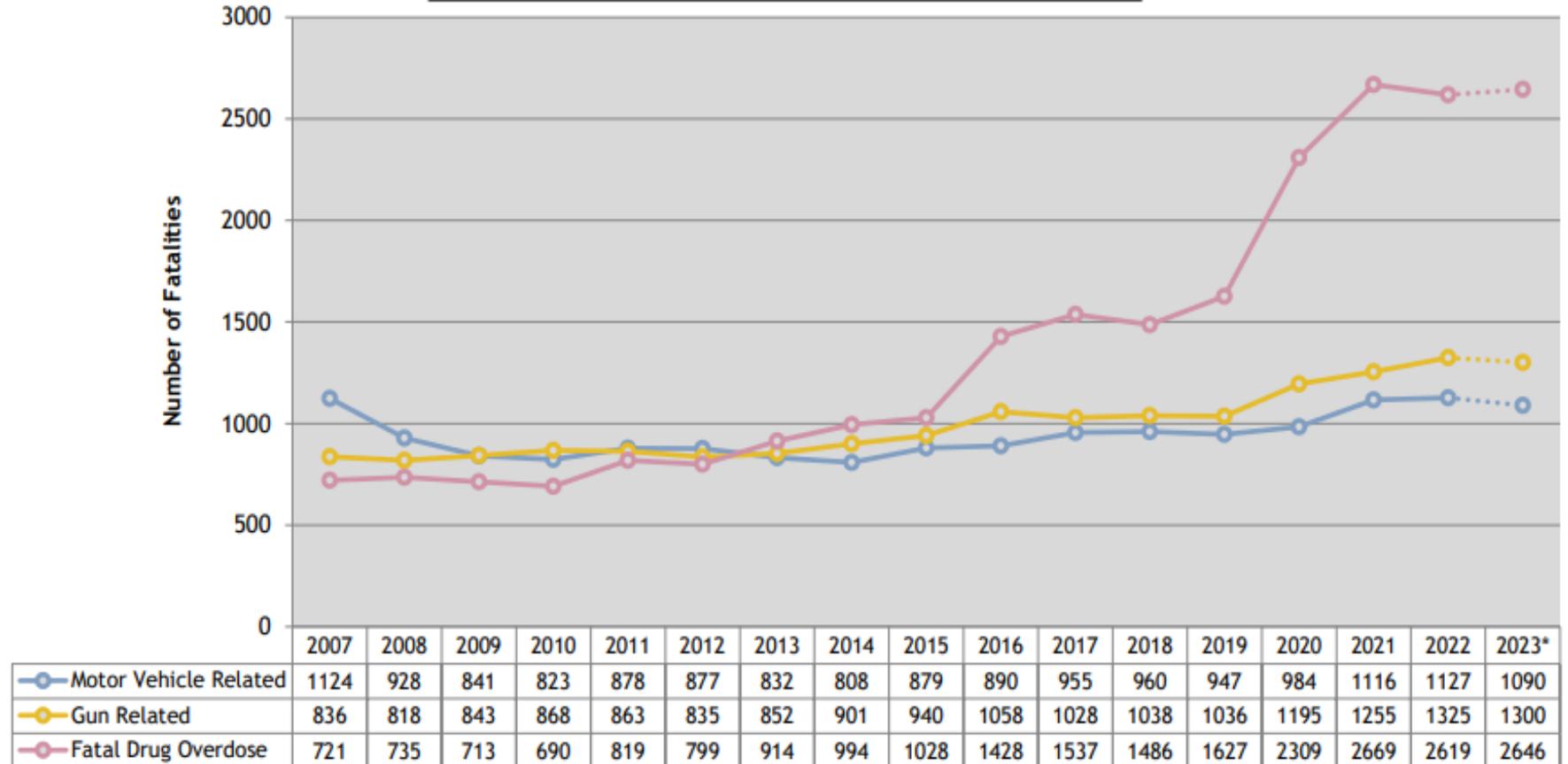
- In June 2022, Governor Youngkin created the Human Trafficking Prevention and Survivor Support Task Force, which recommended legislation in 2023.
- Established a human trafficking taskforce under the Virginia State Police
- Commonwealth's Attorneys and Department of Criminal Justice Services are conducting human trafficking awareness courses for local Commonwealth Attorney's and staff
- Working with the Virginia Office of the Attorney General and non-profits on community outreach programs and conducting education and training awareness for private industry on how to recognize human trafficking (Truckers Association, Hotel Association, Airlines, etc.) and who to report it to
- Virginia law enforcement is working with federal partner Homeland Security Human Trafficking Task Force to combat human trafficking

Illicit Drugs

Fentanyl was involved in 76% of fatal drug overdoses (2022)

- Fatal drug overdoses was the leading cause of death among Virginians in 2022.
- ***More Virginians died of fatal drug overdoses than car and gun related incidents combined.***

Total Number of Motor Vehicle, Gun, and Drug Related Fatalities by Year of Death, 2007-2023*
Data for 2023 is a Predicted Total for the Entire Year



Source: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, October 2023 Update

Virginia Illicit Drug Seizures

Cocaine:

- 2022 – 3,616.57 kilograms
- 2023 – 6,840.33 kilograms
- **Total for the 2 years – 10,456.9 kg**



Heroin:

- 2022 – 1,046.74 kilograms
- 2023 – 20.2 kilograms
- **Total for 2 years – 1,066.94 kg**

Methamphetamine:

- 2022 – 3,870.93 kilograms
- 2023 – 4418.35 kilograms
- **Total for 2 years – 8,289.28 kg**

Virginia Fentanyl Seizures

- 2022 – 104.36 kilograms
- 2023 – 135.47 kilograms
- Total for 2 years – 239.83 kg
 - **115,726 - Total pills seized by VSP**



Fatal dose of fentanyl
(2 mg or 2000 mcg)



Fatal dose of carfentanil
(0.02 mg or 20 mcg)

Virginia Illicit Drugs

NITAZENE

- Created in the 1950's
- 10x deadlier than Fentanyl
- While rare, often mixed with other drugs
- Highly addictive



New synthetic opioid threatens to drive up astronomical overdose rates

A deadly new class of synthetic opioids has been identified in cities throughout the United States at a time when fatal drug overdose rates are soaring.

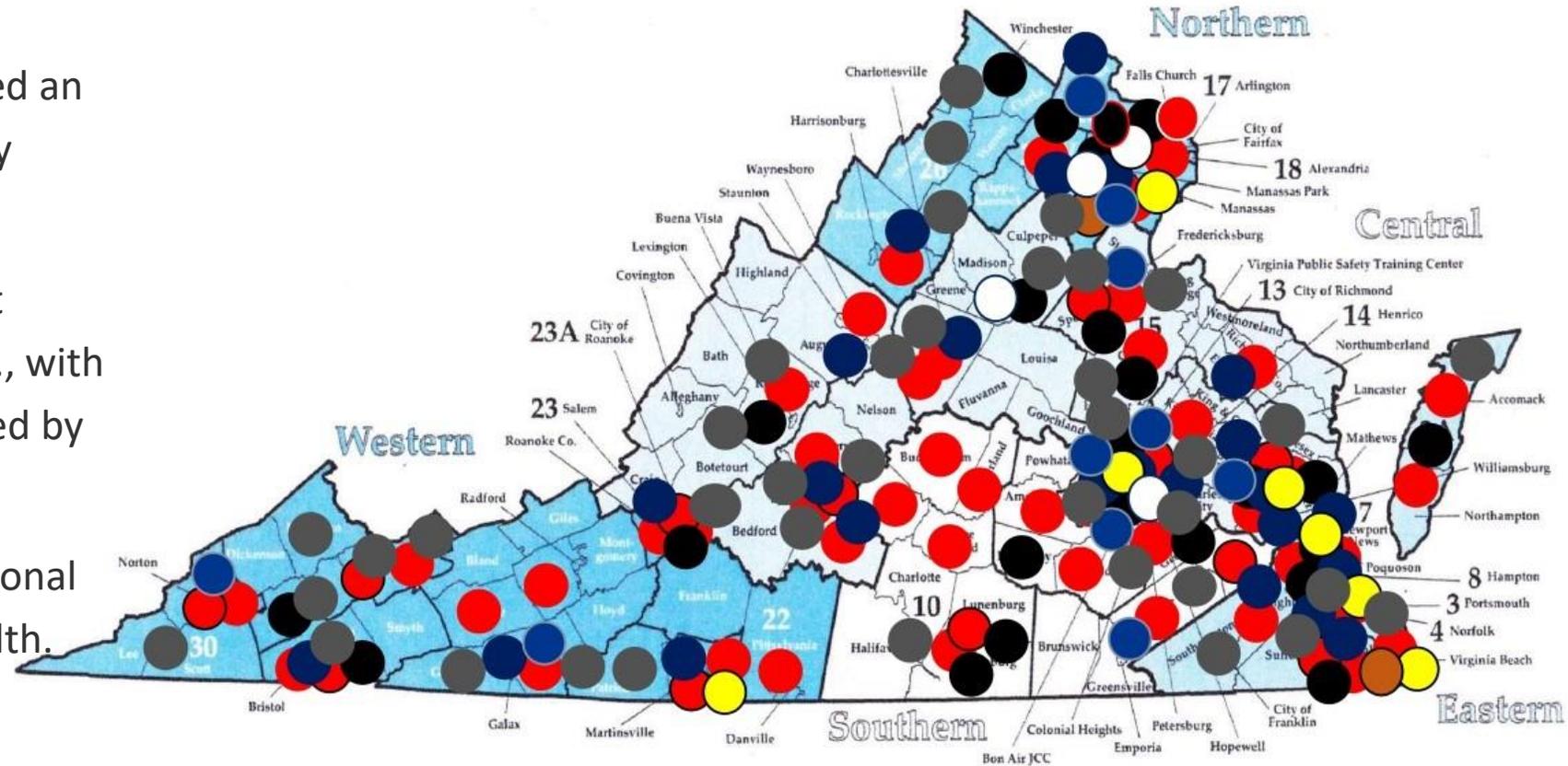
Additional Nitazenes have been scheduled via the expedited regulatory process and are included in [SB111](#)

Illicit Drugs – The Virginia Response

- Deaths associated with illicit drugs triple the number of number of deaths by motor vehicles and guns.
- Virginia law enforcement is partnering with other state and local agencies and our federal partners to target those saturating the Commonwealth with illicit drugs.
 - The cost of cocaine and fentanyl are lower in the Commonwealth which is an indicator of the volume of these drugs in the Commonwealth.
 - I64, I81 and I95 are superhighways for the transporting these drugs.
- Virginia law enforcement is working with Customs and Border Patrol to target illicit drugs at ports of entry.
- Developed the Violent Crime Strategy to target organizations responsible for the transportation and distribution of illicit drugs.

Increased Gang Activity

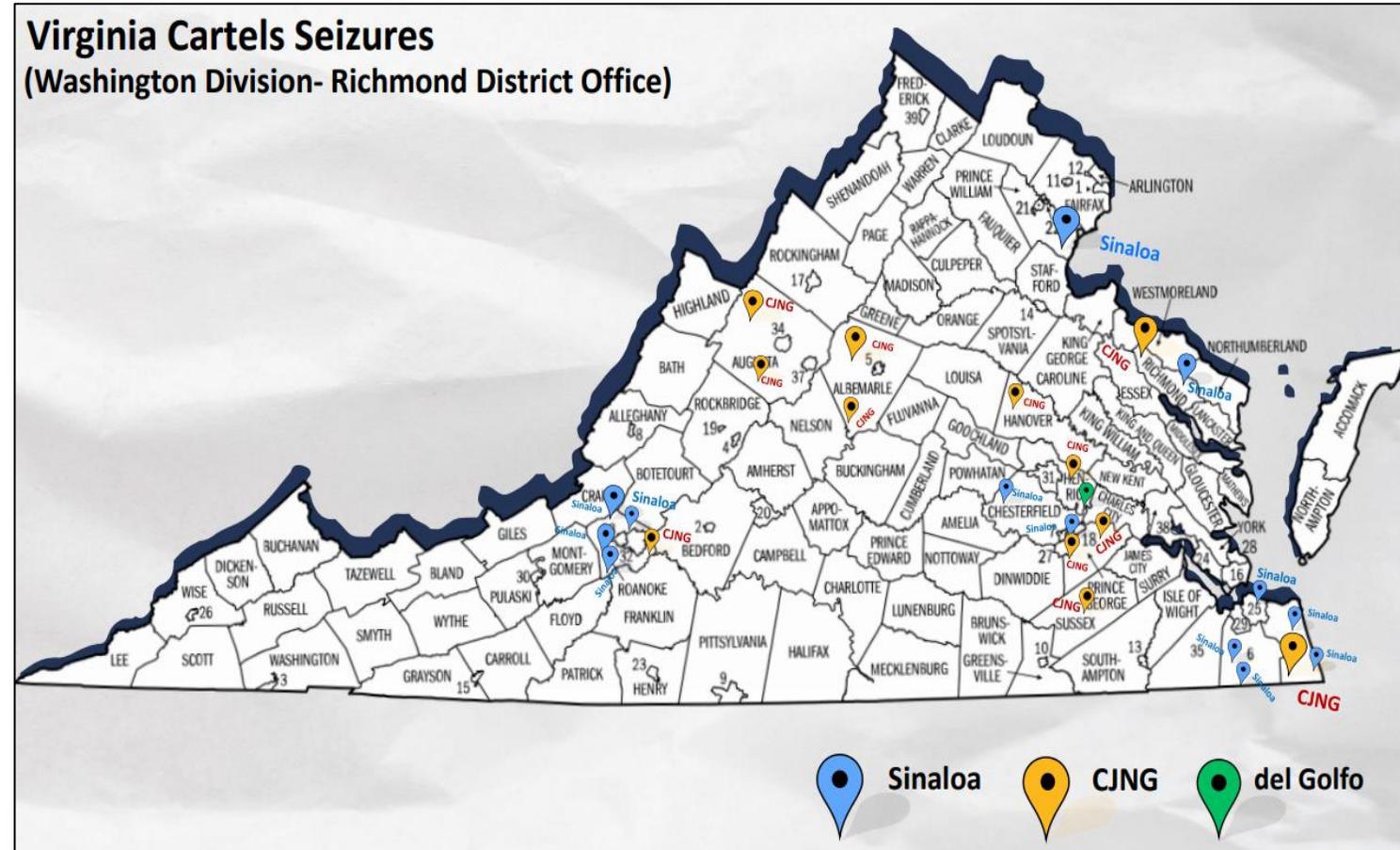
- Virginia law enforcement has reported an increase in gang involvement in every region of the state.
- As of 2022, more than 33,000 violent gangs are criminally active in the U.S., with 1.4 million gang members, as reported by the FBI.
- There are 648 Home Grown and National Gangs operating in the Commonwealth.
- Significant gang activity is also occurring within the Department of Corrections.



Gangs/Drugs/Guns/Illicit Trafficking (humans, migrants)

The Commonwealth of Virginia is experiencing significant public safety and homeland security challenges which is attributed to the violence associated with:

- Street Gangs
- Human / Labor Trafficking
- Influx of illegal narcotics
- Legislation which has weakened law enforcement's ability to interdict
- Sale of unregulated marijuana products
- Gang activity is largely concentrated in Roanoke, Richmond, Northern Virginia, and Hampton Roads.

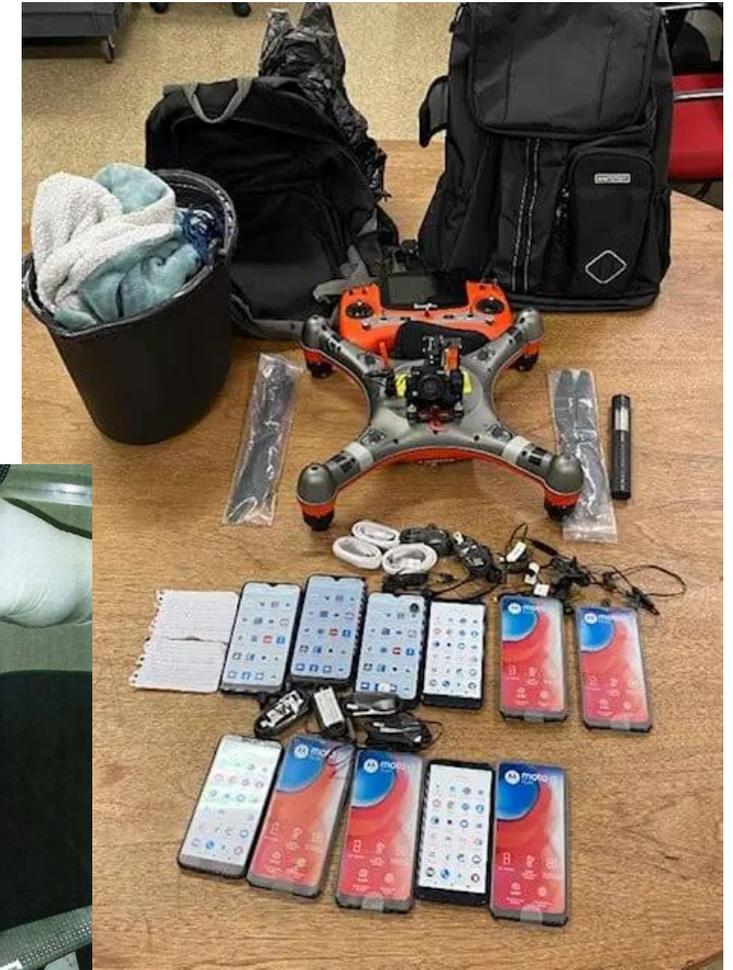


Gangs – The Virginia Response

- Participate in numerous multi-jurisdictional task forces across the Commonwealth collaborating with Federal, State and Local partners.
- Conduct regular training events with partners to collaborate and share intelligence about emerging trends with gangs in the Commonwealth.
 - Train localities to recognize gang activity and when it increase.
- Produce monthly gang reports and intelligence products for law enforcement personnel.
- Violent Crime Reduction Strategy was developed to combat trans-national criminal organizations.

Homeland Security

- 10 incursions with aircraft reported to FAA
- Multiple drones sighted and intercepted at Virginia Department of Correction Facilities
- Drone incursions at federal facilities



Lawrenceville Correctional Center

Homeland Security – The Virginia Response

- Establish the Homeland Security Bureau within the Virginia State Police to address both domestic and international threats to the Commonwealth which ultimately become a national threat.
- 24x7 Watch Operation Center, the Fusion Center re-envisioned and the mission augmented to include support for homeland security (cyber threat vectors, critical infrastructure, counter threat/terrorism, etc...) along with its' law enforcement responsibilities and the move to a 24x7 Watch Operations Center for real time monitoring.
- Funding and human resources are needed to modernize monitoring tools, systems and databases for sharing and collaboration, enhanced communications and staffing to support 24x7 monitoring and response.

DOC Seizures



Public Safety / Officer Wellness

- The Governor's introduced budget includes \$18 million for the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish the Office of First Responder Wellness and support recruitment and retention efforts for law enforcement.
- Overall decline in individuals serving in law enforcement has placed additional strain on existing personnel. We need to better support for our first responders who protect our Commonwealth and keep us safe.

Sworn Law Enforcement

Of the Sworn Officers signifying possible depression, anxiety, and/or PTSD, indicated below is the a..



Fire & Rescue

Of the Fire & Rescue personnel signifying possible depression, anxiety, and/or PTSD, indicated below is the average time spent in the profession.



Dispatch

Of the Dispatchers signifying possible depression, anxiety, and/or PTSD, indicated below is the average time spent in the profession.



Public Safety Wellness – The Virginia Response

- Virginia State Police hired its first wellness coordinator to include a therapy and service K-9.
- Struggle Well, a resiliency program administered by Bolder Crest Foundation, delivered training to over 50 employees and are expanding the program to be delivered to all members of Virginia State Police
- Through cooperation with Virginia Law Enforcement Program (VALEAP) Virginia Peer Support Association (VAPSA) we continues to train peer support professionals and conduct critical incident stress debriefing training across the Commonwealth.
- Outreach and cooperation with mental health clinicians to provide wellness support to our first responders.

Questions?

